Latham F-S (1888-1891) 1909 SG4 Accessions SG4

By degrees the dance became more and more furious, the contortions more complicated, and at length he broke out into a wild monotonous chant. This was kept up till heaven seemed could stand no more, and he fell back in a fit, or state of coma, produced by utter exhaustion. 754 787 535

The attention of the crowd now became painful, every one waiting for some sign of returning consciousness. In about a quarter of an hour, the twitching of the limbs told of returning life, and in a short while he suddenly sat up. 754 787 532

When his faculties were a little clearer he again took his wand, and holding it loosely between his fingers, let it drop in the centre of the circle. Naturally, it fell across one of the figures drawn round the edge. In a short time he announced that the chief had been slain by an enemy who had taken the form of a black mule (wild bull), and that it was necessary to sacrifice such an animal, when the evil-doer would immediately suffer for his act.

Six young men, near relatives of the deceased, were told off for the hunt, and with very slight preparations, they saddled their horses and disappeared into the night, while the crowd gradually broke up, only the relatives remaining to take part in one of those debauches in which every Indians' reunion terminates.

In the early morning, I took advantage of the comparative quiet to look for and make a drawing of the circle and figures drawn by the medicine the night before.

The figures were meant to represent respectively, a horse, a partridge, a wild bull, a crab, a puma, and a vulture.

It is peculiar to notice that while all the animals are drawn with two fore-legs none of them have more than one hind leg, while all the birds have three toes.

The diameter of the circle was about 2 feet.

Soon after sunrise, the corpse was suspended in a wicker basket from a large tree which grew in front of the hut. A fire of green *canelo* was lighted under it and the deceased's wives appointed to look after it. 754 787

It was not till the morning of the sixth day that the hunters returned dragging with them, held by two lassoes, a black bull, about two years old. The victim was fastened to stout stakes near the spot where the corpse was suspended, and the whole assembly, which had quickly drawn together on hearing the news, joined in cursing and reviling it.

Meanwhile, the drunken debauch had been kept up without intermittence, and every kind of license indulged in. The following day was appointed for the funeral. Every one was early astir, and busy in the arrangements for the ceremony. 764

A coffin was constructed of hewn slabs. The body (*alkue*), black and shrivelled, was taken down, dressed in new clothes, and placed upon a bier (*pilpuey*) constructed of poles, over which a cowhide was stretched. The bier was adorned with branches of *canelo*, their sacred tree, laurel and myrtle.

The chiefs of the villages and the heads of families now brought their presents, consisting of liquors, mantas, chickens, lambs, cheese, milk, corn, cakes or other

5 Cooper E-4 (no date) 1946 SG4 Araucanians SG4

532
4f2

PLATE 133.—Araucanian Indians and Araucanian masks. *Top:* Mounted *Araucanians.* (Courtesy University Museum, Philadelphia.) *Bottom:* Modern *Mapuche* masks. (After Claude Joseph, 1931, fig. 28.)

[P. 734 C]

S Cooper E-4 (no date) 1946 SG4 Araucanians SG4

thought it was, as some have thought more recently (Hewett, 1938, p. 80). Other beliefs were that cadáveres after death dwelt in volcanoes or in the stars or the Milky Way; serpents, in caves or in the depths of volcanoes; warriors, in the sky. Storms, thunder, and lightning were, according to one tradition, caused by battles in the air, waged by the spirits of departed natives against the spirits of Spaniards. The spirits of dead cadáveres could perish the living in the form of large blue flies.

PLATE 58.—Mapuche grave, with upright lance and hunting of neighboring hearth. (After Smith, 1855, p. 227.)

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Art.—Design was confined almost exclusively to geometric patterns. There was no figure modeling in clay except the steamer-duck pitchers previously noted, no sculpture in stone, and no artistic wood carving, except certain crude wooden masks (collins: cf. Claude Joseph, 1931, pp. 284–86) used at gatherings and in hockey games and the rudely shaped human figures in wood set up at graves.

Literature.—Oratory was in high esteem, taught and cultivated, and constituted an avenue to prestige and public office. A special highly figurative style prevailed in public speeches, with the use of special phrases and turns of expression peculiar thereto. Special songs were